

TO
A

Dr. A.J. Liston
Assistant Deputy Minister
Health Protection Branch

FROM
DE

Director General
Environmental Health Directorate

SUBJECT
OBJET

Review of Thomson Report and Ministerial Correspondence on
Environmental Hypersensitivity

SECURITY - CLASSIFICATION - DE SECURITE

OUR FILE/NOTRE REFERENCE

10L 1047

YOUR FILE/VOTRE REFERENCE

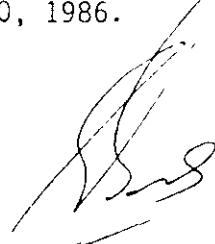
KW 13094
86-04237

DATE

October 28, 1986

1. In a letter of February 20, 1986, to Dr. Liston, Mrs. Lynda Brooks asked that the Thomson Report on Environmental Hypersensitivity be reviewed by officials of the Department of National Health and Welfare.
2. The Report was requested from the Ontario Government and an interim letter was sent in March stating that a review would be undertaken as soon as the report was received (this occurred at the end of April).
3. This report, and a number of letters concerning environmental hypersensitivity, were referred to the Environmental Health Directorate, because chemicals in the environment are often referred to as the cause of the condition.
4. This Directorate undertook a preliminary review of the Thomson report in which it became apparent that (i) many of the symptoms appeared to resemble an immune response, (ii) most of the findings and recommendations, especially those involving financial aid and medical coverage concerned the provincial government rather than the Federal government, and (iii) there was considerable controversy within the medical profession over the basic premise on which all the recommendations depended, that is, ~~that~~ whether it was a bona fide disease.
5. Because this Directorate was ill-equipped to answer any of these questions, I requested in a memo of August 25 that some other section of Health Protection Branch deal with matters related to environmental hypersensitivity. Since then, ministerial letters on this topic to various individuals have simply referred to the Thomson Report and noted that environmental hypersensitivity is a provincial responsibility.

7. In a ministerial reply to another letter from Mrs. Brooks, dated September 22, 1986, a summary of the comments on the findings and recommendations of the Thomson Report were provided. It should not, therefore, be necessary for your office to reply further to Mrs. Brooks' letter of February 20, 1986.



E. Somers

7-0369